IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1-16 (Canceled).

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A process for preparing a molded paper vessel, comprising draw-molding under heat and pressure, a molding base paper having the following conditions (1) to (4):

(1) a tensile strength (JIS-P 8113) of at least 2.0 kN/m,

(2) an elongation at break (JIS-P 8113) of at least 1.5%,

(3) a critical compression stress, defined by the following formula, in the range of 1 to 10 MPa:

$$\text{Critical compression stress} = A/B$$

wherein A represents the compression strength determined by JIS-P 8126, and B represents the area of loaded part of the test piece in the determination of the compression strength, and

(4) an amount of compression deformation, caused by applying compression stress of 20 kgf/cm^2 in thickness direction, of at least 10%, so as to form a vessel which satisfies the following formula (5):

$$[[0.15]]\ \underline{0.2} \leq H/(S1)^{1/2} \qquad (5)$$

wherein S1 represents the bottom area of the vessel and H represents the height thereof,

wherein said molding base paper is prepared with a multi-layer combination former; is a multi-layer paper wherein a low density layer is sandwiched between high density layers; has a basis weight of 100 to 500 g/m^2 and a density of 0.40 to 0.70 g/cm^3; and said high

density layer has a density of 0.7 to 0.9 g/cm^3 and said low density layer has a density of 0.3 to 0.6 g/cm^3.

Claim 18 (Canceled).

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim [[18]] 17, wherein said molding base paper comprises a mechanical pulp in an amount of 20 to 80%.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 17, wherein said molding base paper further comprises a synthetic resin layer on at least one surface thereof.

Claims 21-22 (Canceled).

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): The process of claim [[22]] 19, wherein said mechanical pulp is thermomechanical pulp.

Claim 24 (Canceled).

Claim 25 (New): The process according to claim 17, wherein said molding base paper comprises any one selected from the group consisting of mechanical pulp, mercerized pulp and curled fibers.